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# The LAKE CITY ELM

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THE LAKE CITY NURSERIES  
Incorporated  
LAKE CITY, MINN.

## *The Lake City Elm*

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IN INTRODUCING the Lake City Elm, we feel that we have added a valuable variety to the list of shade trees for the Northwest. The tree is a type of the American Elm, found growing outside of the Lutheran Parsonage here at Lake City, Minnesota.

It is of an upright, closely branched type, adapting itself splendidly to boulevard planting. Nearly all other budded Elms are of a Southern type and have proven very susceptible to sunscald, and, are, therefore, not adapted to this northern climate. A type of Elm such as the Lake City Elm needs no corrective trimming. It presents a uniform appearance when planted, because one tree is just like the other. These trees are budded on the native American Elm seedling with a perfectly hardy root as well as trunk.

It is now some ten years since we introduced it. During this time we have thoroughly tested it out in various localities. We make the following claims for it based upon these trials:

It is hardy and it is hardier than any other Elm sport introduced.

It will stand more drought than other budded Elms — in fact, will stand more drought than its parent tree, the American Elm.

In boulevard planting it will practically eliminate pruning expenses. The branches are grown very closely to the trunk, shoulders are heavy and the branches will not break down. It is symmetrical in shape, reminding one of the Linden in the way its tops are formed. It is a beautiful tree.

It will not sunscald. It has heavy bark that tends to roughen up early.

It seems less susceptible to disease and insects.



*The Original Tree Growing at Lake City, Minn.*

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We echo Mr. Marshall's statement that it is the best Elm so far introduced.

In the "Parks and Recreation" magazine of September 1931 issue we find the following write-up on this tree:

"The Lake City Elm introduced by the Lake City Nurseries, Inc., Lake City, Minnesota, is a fastigate type of the American Elm of unusual merit. Close, upright growth, small branches, it offers a guarantee against breaking down from sleet and storm and makes trimming unnecessary. It seems hardier than the Moline; has a tendency to bark roughening at an early date. It is not as susceptible to sunscald as the Moline. The tree is very symmetrical and should be of real value for boulevard planting. The parent tree is located at Lake City. It is about twenty years old; has never been trimmed and the shape as shown in the picture is entirely natural."

Mr. Leonard Barron in the "Country Life" of March, 1931, under his heading "Come Into the Garden" says:

"The Lake City Elm obviously differs from the Moline variety, and it is claimed that it has certain advantages that are adapted particularly well to the northern and trying climates. It is an upright, closely branched type, resembling the Moline Elm, and it is claimed that its peculiar bark is a protection against sunscald to which the Moline is subject in some situations and that has been my experience. I am not surprised that the Lake City Nurseries were attracted to this tree.

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For street tree planting the more compact, upright types are favored, if only for the reason that they require no pruning and trimming. Compactness is characteristic of the tree itself, and as in case with any particular variety, propagation must be done by budding on native seedling stock."

We also print the following letters from people who have come into contact with the Lake City Elm:

Oct. 3, 1931.

Lake City Nurseries

Gentlemen:

You have asked about my experience with the Lake City Elm. You recall that we purchased these from you at three different seasons. Out of each of these shipments some of them have been planted in Valley City and a portion along our nursery drive. We have also planted there Moline and Vase Elm and one or two other brands. We all like the Lake City Elm. It is certainly making a good showing thus far. I am glad to see you push it for we certainly need a strictly northern elm somewhat on the Moline type.

The Moline is not dependable with us: It seems to sunscald badly and go to pieces, but the Lake City Elm being a strictly northern Elm should give us just what we are after in a good Elm of formal type for street and lawn planting. We expect to continue the planting of this tree.

Very respectfully yours,

E. C. Hilborn, General Manager  
The Northwest Nursery Co.  
Valley City, North Dakota

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Oct. 6, 1931.

Lake City Nurseries, Inc.

Lake City, Minn.

Gentlemen:

When we were at your nursery recently we were very favorably impressed by the tree you are growing under the name "Lake City" Elm. This being a native of Minnesota is hardy and it has the habit of growth that has long been sought in elm shade trees. I feel sure that your Lake City Elm will be the preferred variety as soon as it becomes known.

In appearance it is better than the Moline and has the great advantage that it is perfectly hardy. The original tree is a beauty and has unusually dense foliage.

Yours very truly,

C. H. Andrews

The Andrews Nursery Co.

Faribault, Minn.

Sept. 29, 1931.

The Lake City Nurseries, Inc.

Lake City, Minn.

Gentlemen:

As you have requested, I am herewith submitting our experience with the use of the so-called Lake City Elm.

We have used these trees exclusively for street tree planting where uniformity in size and of shape in individuals was essential or desirable. I would say that of all of the various elm varieties or types which we have used, the Lake City Elm meets our requirements for street tree use better than any other.

This elm seems to make a slightly faster growth than the ordinary elm which, in this





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vicinity, is important due to our comparatively short growing season; also the trees all have a characteristically similar type of branching habit which we believe is advantageous in street tree planting.

As to the cost of maintenance, it has been somewhat less on pruning than that required on the common American Elm. This is due to the fact that all the branches tend to leave the trunk at an acute upward angle and for this reason the permanent skeleton of any given tree can be formed at an earlier date than on an American Elm whose branches sometimes tend to droop considerably and also that it is quite free from sucker growth. Although the Lake City Elm in Duluth seems to be no more resistant to insect attacks, than the other elms, it does, due to its fast growth, seem to outgrow its injuries sooner.

Although the Lake City Elm is possibly not as fast a grower as the Moline Elm, we have found it in our community, a more desirable street tree. Here the Moline Elm has a tendency to keep on growing too late into the Fall and of failing to mature its wood properly which results in the killing back of the top to some extent. The Moline Elm is also smoother barked and for that reason the trunk has a great tendency to frost crack and sunscald in this climate.

Trusting that this information will be of interest to you as a grower, I am,

Yours very truly,

Harry L. Staves,  
Landscape Engineer  
The Park Department  
Duluth, Minnesota

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## VILLAGE OF HAZEN

Hazen, No. Dak.

February 26, 1934.

Mr. Bj. Loss, President,  
Lake City Nurseries, Inc.,  
Lake City, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. Loss:

We thought you might be interested in learning something about the trees which you sold the Park Board of this village in the spring of 1932, and in particular, the Lake City elms. We think that the growth these trees have made is remarkable, especially in view of the fact that the year 1932 was quite dry, and that 1933, excepting for the spring, we exceedingly dry.

We were not so much concerned about the Chinese elms because we know from experience that they would do well in this climate, but your Lake City elm was a new tree with us and we did not know whether this would thrive so far west and so far north. We used your Lake City elms as boulevard trees, planting sixty or seventy of them along the boulevard, and with one exception, every tree is alive and growing. These were six to eight foot trees when we bought them, and they now stand a good strong ten and one-half feet, in height. The pleasing thing about them is that every tree is uniform, and they make a most pleasing appearance.

As you know, or may surmise, the depression has made it difficult for our park board to engage in further tree plantings, but we hope that as soon as things loosen up a bit that we may be able to carry on further plantings and we want to assure you that you will have our

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business, whatever it may be. We are certainly more than pleased, and especially with your Lake City elms.

Very truly yours,

John Moses,  
Clerk, Board of Trustees.

Oct. 23rd, 1931.

The Lake City Nurseries  
Lake City, Minn.

Gentlemen:

Now as to the Lake City Elm, as you remember, I took note of the comparison as to their drought resistance, with the Moline and also the American or common Elm. And as you remember, they seemed to be suffering less than any others. You also well remember, I am sure, that you got the hardest jolt by dry weather last year, that you had ever experienced in the many years you have been connected with the nursery business. I observed the original tree on the streets in Lake City and will say that it is a tree to be admired, uniform, upright growth, yet with sufficient spread to render it a valuable shade tree. I would consider it very much more valuable than the common Elm and possibly the most valuable of any of the budded varieties that have as yet been brought out.

Yours very truly,

George A. Marshall  
The Marshalls Nurseries  
Arlington, Nebr.

## *The Lake City Elm*

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*A Young Lake City Elm*